From: Wayne Bell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 10:15pm
Subject: Integration is the real issue here

Hello,

I have been following the government's case against Microsoft over the years, and I believe the real issue is the fact that Microsoft integrates its products into its operating system to a level which competitors can't because they do not have the intimate knowledge of the operating system's source code and/or the ability to remove microsoft's competing products without altering the operating system itself.

By integrating Internet Explorer into the operating system, Microsoft was able to make IE SEEM faster because it took no time to load the program... because windows already loaded most of it along with the operating system.   This is part of why windows 98 and higher use so much system RAM. They load portions of microsoft products so that their products will always be faster to load. This makes the system SLOWER for those with less RAM and is not desirable at all... imagine if all of your programs loaded into memory at once... your system would crawl. Netscape, Realplayer, and others have created "fast launch" programs which can do the same thing now, but the only reason they do is because they need to compete with microsoft products. This is not an efficient use of system resources. Also, Microsoft's competitors cannot remove MS products without harming the OS in some way... nor can they integrate thier own products where MS's were.

The only true remedy to this situation would be to open up major portions of the operating system source code to all software companies.

Also, Microsoft's licensing practices are suspect... I would make sure that they contained no provisions which would prohibit PC manufacturers from installing multiple operating systems or modifying major parts of windows if they choose.

This recent "settlement" isn't even a slap on the wrist.   I think cutting the company into pieces was a good plan to restore true competition in the applications market, but if that isn't an option, then the source code of windows should be made more open and allow for companies to make significant SUPPORTED alternative integrated programs possible.

MS seems to be on the path of integrating EVERYTHING into the operating system. While this would do wonders for compatability and perhaps ease of use, it will destroy a competitive marketplace and leave users at the mercy of Microsoft's monopolistic practices and future fees and licensing programs.

Thank you for your time,

Wayne Bell